



VETERANS

**benefits
&
services**

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

This booklet has been compiled especially for veterans and their families to fulfill three important purposes:

- *To provide information concerning veterans benefits and services available through federal, state, and local agencies;*
- *To provide veterans and their families with links to direct sources, both computer-based and professional, knowledgeable counselors, for answers to specific questions; and*
- *To assist veterans in communicating more effectively with their elected representatives.*

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserving and protecting our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.

Much of the information contained in this booklet is taken from Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2004 Edition, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and from applicable state statutes. It is by no means exhaustive, but is intended as an introduction to the many programs and services available. Please feel free to contact the sources cited for more detailed information. Another excellent source for information on state veterans programs is Michigan's Veterans Programs, A Fiscal Focus, prepared by the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, November 2000.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Categories

| | |
|---|----|
| Am I a Military Veteran? | 3 |
| Veteran Holidays and Flag Etiquette | 4 |
| Education and Training Programs | 6 |
| Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans | 10 |
| Employment Programs | 11 |
| Home Loans, Insurance, and Tax Credits | 15 |
| Monetary Assistance Programs | 18 |
| Health Care and Hospital Benefits | 22 |
| V.A. Center for Women Veterans | 24 |
| Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Vet Centers | 24 |
| Homeless Veterans | 25 |
| Death and Burial Benefits for Veterans | 27 |
| Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children | 28 |

Contact Information

| | |
|---|----|
| Michigan's Congressional Delegation – 109th Congress | 30 |
| Michigan's Governor and Lt. Governor | 32 |
| Michigan State Senate 2003-2006 | 32 |
| Michigan House of Representatives 2005-2006 | 33 |
| Agency Listings | 35 |
| Veterans Service Organizations | 37 |
| Michigan V.A. Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics | 39 |
| Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs | 40 |
| Where to Find More Veterans Information | 40 |

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature with
the assistance of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth
and many service providers listed in this publication.
This information is provided free to Michigan citizens
and is not for reproduction for resale or profit.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I a Military Veteran?

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (V.A.) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve may be eligible for certain benefits.

Honorable and general discharges qualify a veteran for most V.A. benefits. Dishonorable and bad-conduct discharges issued by general court-martial bar V.A. benefits. Veterans in prison and parolees may be eligible for certain V.A. benefits. V.A. regional offices can clarify eligibility of prisoners and parolees.

Benefits provided under Michigan law require that service be terminated under honorable conditions, including general discharge, or separation under honorable conditions. In no case will dishonorable, undesirable, or bad-conduct discharges qualify the veteran as eligible.

Any Michigan veteran, or dependent of a veteran, can request the assistance of a veterans service officer or a county Veterans Affairs office for representation to obtain federal veterans benefits.

An annual appropriation is made by the State of Michigan to fund this service, which is offered by The American Legion, AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps

League, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America-Michigan. See the section **Veterans Service Organizations** (page 37) for contact information or call the V.A. at **1-800-827-1000** if you need more information.

INFORMATION ON
ELIGIBILITY
FOR MILITARY
SERVICE BENEFITS
IS AVAILABLE FROM
THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(AGENCY LISTING #12
ON PAGE 36), OR A
COUNTY VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICE.



HOLIDAYS & FLAG ETIQUETTE

Veteran Holidays and Flag Etiquette

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern

states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Flag Etiquette

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

Rules for Display of the American Flag

Flag Displayed Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.

Flown at Half-Staff

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

“Half-staff” means the flag has been lowered to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

Flown on the Same Halyard With Non-Nation Flags

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

In a Parade With Other Flags

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

With Other National Flags

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

With Another Flag Against a Wall From Crossed Staffs

The American flag should be on the right (the flag's own right which is the viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

Flag Displayed Indoors

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium On a Podium

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium Off the Podium

Custom—not the Flag Code—holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

Used to Cover a Casket

The American flag should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Other than Being Flown From a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of flag code etiquette rules for display of the American Flag at the American Legion Web site (<http://www.legion.org>).

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Programs – U.S. Federal

Montgomery GI Bill

Basic Eligibility (MGIB)

The Montgomery GI Bill provides a program of education benefits to honorably discharged veterans who entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. Active duty includes certain full-time Reserve and National Guard duty performed after June 30, 1985. To participate in the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), service members have their military pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of active duty. This money is not refundable. The participant generally must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before beginning training. Completing a minimum of 12 credit hours toward a college degree meets this requirement. Credits granted by colleges for life experiences may be used to meet this requirement.

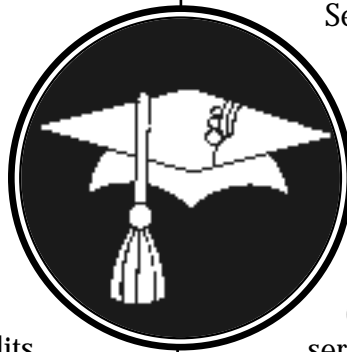
Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at **1-888-442-4551** for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on V.A.'s Education Services web page (<http://www.gibill.va.gov>).

Vietnam Era GI Bill Conversions and Other MGIB Enrollment

Individuals who had remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill when that program ended on December 31, 1989, must have served on active

duty for any number of days during the period October 19, 1984, to June 30, 1985; or served on active duty for at least three years beginning on July 1, 1985; or served at least two years active duty beginning after June 30, 1985, followed by a minimum of four years in the Selected Reserve. Those who were not on active duty on October 19, 1984, if they served three continuous years on active duty at any time beginning on or after July 1, 1985, or two continuous years of active duty at any time followed by four continuous years in the Selected Reserve, and had remaining Vietnam Era GI Bill entitlement on December 31, 1989, may also be eligible for MGIB benefits.

Individuals who were participants under the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) may be eligible if they served on active duty on October 9, 1996; participated in VEAP and contributed money to a VEAP account; and elected MGIB by October 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996, may also be eligible even if they did not deposit money in a VEAP account if they served on active duty from October 9, 1996, through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed \$2,700 to MGIB. Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard under title 32, U.S.C., between June 30, 1985, and November 29, 1989; elected to have National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the nine-month window ending on July 9, 1997; and paid \$1,200.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Types of Education and Training Available Under MGIB

The following types of training are available under the Montgomery GI Bill:

- (1) courses at colleges and universities leading to associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees, and accredited independent study;
- (2) courses leading to a certificate or diploma from business, technical, or vocational schools;
- (3) apprenticeships or on-the-job training programs for individuals not on active duty;
- (4) correspondence courses, under certain conditions;
- (5) flight training, if the veteran holds a private pilot's license upon beginning the training program and meets the medical requirements;
- (6) state-approved teacher certification programs;
- (7) preparatory courses necessary for admission to a college or graduate school; and
- (8) licensing and certification tests approved for veterans.

Payments for Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)

A veteran who served on active duty for three years or more, or two years active duty plus four years in the Selected Reserve, will receive a monthly income in basic benefits for 36 months effective October 1, 2002. Those who enlist and serve fewer than three years will receive a slightly lesser amount per month. V.A. will pay an additional amount, commonly called a "kicker," if directed by the Department of Defense. Service members currently participating in MGIB can

make additional contributions up to \$600 to receive an increased amount of educational assistance. For more information on amounts and eligibility, visit **www.gibill.va.gov**.

Other Educational/ Training Benefits

V.A. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment is an employment-oriented program that assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering them services and assistance to help them prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment. Suitable employment is work that is within the veterans' physical, mental, and emotional capabilities and matches their patterns of skills, abilities, and interests.

For veterans whose disabilities make employment unlikely, V.A. helps them attain as much daily living independence as possible.

Eligibility for the V.A. Vocational Rehabilitation Program

A veteran must have a V.A.-established service-connected disability of at least 10 percent with a serious barrier to employment, or at least 20 percent with an employment handicap; and be discharged or released from military service under other than dishonorable conditions. A service member pending medical separation from active duty may apply, but the disability rating must be at least 20 percent. Information and application forms are available from your county Veterans Affairs office; Thomas Herbert, the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Statewide Coordinator at

313-471-3807; or
on the Internet at
<http://www.va.gov>.

**[HTTP://WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV](http://www.gibill.va.gov)
OR CALL, 1-888-GI-BILL-1
(1-888-442-4551)**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Time Period for a V.A. Rehabilitation Program

Generally, veterans must complete a vocational rehabilitation program within 12 years from their separation from military service or within 12 years from the date V.A. notifies them that they have a compensable service-connected disability. Depending on the length of program needed, veterans may be provided up to 48 months of full-time services or their part-time equivalent. These limitations may be extended in certain circumstances.

NOTE: The MGIB and the V.A. Vocational Rehabilitation Program have several combinations of eligibility depending on the time, dates of service, and contributions made while in the military service. Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551 for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on V.A.'s Education Services Web page (<http://www.gibill.va.gov>).

Other Federal Education Programs

V.A. Work-Study Program

The V.A. Work-Study program allows veterans to earn additional income while attending school. (Usually, V.A. Work-Study is like a part-time job with a veteran-related organization.) Talk to your local veteran affairs representative at any university or community college or call **1-888-GI-BILL-1** for more information. You can also visit the V.A. Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Federal Pell Grant Program

The federal government is a source for education grants. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

Pell Grant Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families' federal tax returns. More than 90 percent of families receiving Pell assistance earn less than \$35,000 annually. It is difficult for a family earning more than \$40,000 annually to be eligible for a Pell Grant.

Award Amount

The maximum Pell Grant for the 2004–2005 award year is \$4,050. While the maximum amount can change each year depending on program funding, it has remained at \$4,050 since 2002. The amount of the grant depends on the student's EFC and several other factors.

How and When to Apply

Students apply not only for Pell Grants but for all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs (except scholarships) by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The paper FAFSA is available from high school guidance offices, or the application can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA must be submitted by the end of June to be eligible for aid in the following academic year.

CONTACT YOUR
COUNTY VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICE OR
CALL THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AT
1-888-442-4551
FURTHER INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND AT
[HTTP://WWW.GIBILL.
VA.GOV.](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Programs - State of Michigan

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, which includes the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns responds to and advocates on behalf of Michigan's 1.9 million people with disabilities. This is done through information and technical assistance, disability rights training, working with the Michigan Business Leaders Network on employment for people with disabilities, coordinating the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, and conducting disability awareness and sensitivity training. The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing deals with issues involving Michigan citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing. The mission of the commission is to provide statewide leadership to empower and integrate people with disabilities into all aspects of society.

For more information, contact:
Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns/
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
201 N. Washington Square, First Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-335-6004** T/V
Toll-Free: **1-877-499-6232** T/V
FAX: **517-335-7773**

Commission on Disability Concerns
mcdc@michigan.gov

Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
dodhh@michigan.gov

FOR INFORMATION,
CONTACT THE
MICHIGAN VETERANS
TRUST FUND
(AGENCY LISTING #9
ON PAGE 36).

Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund - Tuition Grant Program

A program administered by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund provides payment for the education of the children of a veteran who is totally disabled from service-

incurred causes, was killed in the line of duty, has died subsequently from a service-related disability, was totally disabled before death from a service-connected illness or injury, or who is listed by the federal government as missing in action in a foreign country. Recipients must be attending a postsecondary education institution in Michigan. Information and application forms are available from your county Veterans Affairs office or on the Internet at **<http://www.va.gov>**.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Veterans with disabilities should also investigate the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. Services may be available to supplement USDVA allowances for vocational rehabilitation in cases of special need or for placement, tools, and equipment. Employment services may also be available to veterans whose disabilities are not service-related. Information is available toll-free at **1-800-605-6722** or **1-888-605-6722 (TTY)**. Or visit the Web site at **www.michigan.gov/mrs**.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs)

The 25 local Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) operate adult programs on a year-round basis. The funds allocated to the MWAs for adult programs must

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

be used to provide core, intensive, and training services to adults. Core services include, but are not limited to, outreach, intake, and orientation to other services, and initial assessments, job search, and placement assistance. Intensive services include comprehensive and specialized assessment, group counseling, and short-term pre-vocational services. Training services include on-the-job training, skill upgrading, and occupational skills training.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Worker Program

An individual must be 18 years of age or older to receive core services in the Dislocated Worker Program. An eligible dislocated worker is an individual who:

- Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff; or
- Is eligible for, or has exhausted entitlement to, unemployment compensation; or
- Has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation, and is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation; or
- Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment as a result of any permanent closure of plant, facility, or enterprise; or
- Is employed at a facility where the employer has made a general announcement that the facility will close within 180 days; or
- Was self-employed but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions; or
- Is a displaced homemaker.

Intensive services under the Dislocated Worker Program are available to dislocated workers who are unemployed or employed, have received at least one core service, and are unable to obtain employment or retain employment

that leads to self-sufficiency. Training services may be made available to employed and unemployed dislocated workers who have met the eligibility criteria under intensive services, have received at least one intensive service, and have been determined to be unable to obtain or retain employment through such services.

For more information, contact your local Michigan Works! Agency. You can call **517-371-1100** to locate the nearest MWA or visit **michiganworks.org** for more detailed information.

Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans

U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT)

The BAT Web site lists apprenticeship program sponsors recognized and registered by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored and operated on a voluntary basis by individual employers, employer associations, or partnerships between employers and labor unions. The data is updated on a monthly basis. It is presented by state and county, with occupations in alphabetical order, followed by the employers who have a registered program for that occupation.

To view apprenticeship programs offered by different states, go to **<http://bat.doleta.gov/bat.cfm>**.

Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a free program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find great careers. The program works with the 15 building and construction trade unions to list construction careers and works with qualified employers to list all other types of careers. Here you can list your skills online to be viewed by potential employers and view employment and training opportunities throughout the U.S. Visit the Web site at **<http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/home.jsp>**.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Programs - U.S. Federal

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is available to service members (and their spouses) who are scheduled for separation from active duty. The program provides employment and training information to service members within 12 months of their separation or 24 months of retirement from the military. Three-day workshops to help begin the transition from military to civilian employment are conducted at military installations. TAP offers information on how to write resumes, prepare for job interviews, negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. Additional information is available on the Internet at: **<http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm>**, or call the Veterans Question Hotline at **1-800-455-5228**.

Verification of Military Experience and Training

The Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586, helps service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain

VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement. Go to **<http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/main.htm>** or call the Veterans Question Hotline at **1-800-455-5228**.

Federal Jobs for Veterans - Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served in a hostile area, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs filled by open, competitive exams. This preference includes five or ten points added to passing scores on examinations. Preference also is provided for certain un-remarried widows and widowers of deceased veterans and for mothers of military personnel who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans who are no longer able to work in their usual occupations; and mothers of veterans who have permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

Individuals interested in federal information should contact the personnel offices of the federal agencies in which they wish to be

employed. Or, contact any Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Service Center. The centers are listed in telephone books under U.S. Government, or you can visit the Web site at **<http://opm.gov>**.

Federal job opportunities can be found on **<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>**.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
AGENCY VETERANS
HOT LINE AT
1-800-455-5228
TO REACH A VETERANS
REPRESENTATIVE FOR
ASSISTANCE IN
JOB-HUNTING.**

Re-Employment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty. Re-employment rights are provided for those who served in the active duty or reserve components of the armed forces. To be re-employed, four requirements must be met:

- (1) The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer;
- (2) The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions);
- (3) The person must submit a timely application for re-employment; and
- (4) The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Applications for re-employment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining re-employment, the employee should contact the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the employer's state. This applies to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service.

Get more information at <http://www.dol.gov>, call the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Bureau of Workforce

Programs and speak to a veterans employment representative at

1-800-455-5228, or visit

<http://michigan.gov/veteranjobs/>.

Employment Programs - State of Michigan

Unemployment Compensation

Recently discharged veterans with 365 days or more of continuous active service (unless separated earlier because of a service-related disability) and who have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may be eligible for unemployment compensation of up to 26 weeks. Benefits are paid from federal funds to eligible veterans who are able and available for work but are unable to find employment. Extended unemployment benefits may be available to those who exhaust their basic eligibility.

Recently discharged persons may not be eligible if they are already receiving a retirement pension, certain educational assistance, or vocational subsistence allowances from the USDVA.

How To File Your Claim

By Internet: To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the Internet, visit www.michigan.gov/uia weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

By Phone: To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone number, call **1-866-500-0017** using a touch-tone telephone. Use the call-in schedule (shown below) when filing by telephone. The schedule is based on the last two digits of your Social Security number. For example, if your Social Security number ends in 50, you would phone in your application on Tuesday afternoon.



EMPLOYMENT

Information Needed to File a Claim: To file a claim, you will need your Social Security number, your driver's license number, or state identification number or your MARVIN PIN (if you have one), a copy of your DD-214, and the names and addresses of employers you have worked for in the past 18 months along with your quarterly gross earnings and the last date of employment with each employer. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you will need your Alien Registration Number and the expiration date of your work authorization.

| Time | M | T | W | Th & F |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 8:00 am - 12:30 pm | 00-15 | 34-48 | 67-81 | OPEN CALL-IN |
| 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm | 16-33 | 49-66 | 82-99 | |

If you have general questions about unemployment benefits, or if you have a question about your Claims by Mail application, call the Claimant Customer Relations Hotline at **1-800-638-3995** weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Rights to Employment Services

A special phone number for veterans has been established for you to voice your concerns related to employment and training. Call **1-800-455-5228** if you need more information or feel you are not receiving the employment or training services you are entitled to. Veterans' employment specialists are also available throughout the state at the Michigan Works! Service Centers. Or visit <http://michigan.gov/veteranjobs>.

State of Michigan Re-Employment Rights for Veterans

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature enacted a law to strengthen the Michigan law regarding re-employment of employees after military service. The act prioritized the employment

positions in which a person would be re-employed following active service. The act specifies that the person is entitled to the seniority and the seniority-based rights and benefits he or she would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to re-employment under the law. State re-employment rights, when superior or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law.

Get more information at <http://michigan.gov/veteranjobs> or call the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Bureau of Workforce Programs and speak to a veterans employment representative at **1-800-455-5228**.

Michigan's Opportunities for Veterans Employment (MOVE)

MOVE, part of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, identifies, contacts, and recruits veterans separating to Michigan for employment opportunities that match their qualifications and career interests. The program seeks to meet the staffing needs of the business community in Michigan with veterans re-entering civilian life after a single term or after retiring from the armed forces. The toll-free number is **1-800-455-5228**. Or visit <http://michigan.gov/veteranjobs>.

EMPLOYMENT

Veterans Employment Representatives Located at Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! Service Centers, in 100 locations, provide locally designed and operated services to meet local labor market needs. Employers seeking workers can post their job listings on the nation's first Internet-based public labor exchange. Veterans can post their resumes for review by employers who are recruiting workers.

The Michigan Works! system is open to everyone for information gathering, local and state labor market information, and self-serve career information, including necessary skill levels for good jobs. Special attention is given to meeting the needs of veterans and people with disabilities. **Each Michigan Works! Service Center has a Veterans Employment Outreach Worker responsible for assisting veterans with their employment needs.**

The labor market exchange component is called the "**Michigan Talent Bank.**" The Talent Bank can be accessed by calling **1-800-285-WORK (9675)**, online at **<http://michiganworks.org>**, or at any of the Michigan Works! Service Centers throughout Michigan.



Converting Military Occupations to Civilian Job Titles

If you need help aligning your military occupation with a civilian job, the America's Job Bank Web site is a valuable tool. Just fill out the form and the Military Occupation Converter does all the work. You can visit this Web site at **<http://www.jobsearch.org/seeker/jobsearch/moc>**.



HOME LOANS, INSURANCE, AND TAX CREDITS

Federal Benefits Home Loan Guarantees

Veterans Affairs loan guarantees may be made to service members, veterans, reservists, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. V.A. guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate, even without a down payment, if the lender agrees. V.A. requires that a down payment be made for the purchase of a manufactured home. V.A. also requires a down payment for a home or condominium if the purchase price exceeds the reasonable value of the property or the loan has a graduated payment feature. With a V.A. guaranty, the lender is protected against loss up to the amount of the guaranty if the borrower fails to repay the loan. A V.A. loan guaranty can be used to:

1. Buy a home.
2. Buy a residential condominium.
3. Build a home.
4. Repair, alter, or improve a home.



5. Refinance an existing home loan.
6. Buy a manufactured home with or without a lot.
7. Buy and improve a manufactured home lot.
8. Install a solar heating or cooling system or other weatherization improvements.
9. Purchase and improve a home simultaneously with energy-efficient improvements.
10. Refinance an existing V.A. loan to reduce the interest rate and make energy-efficient improvements.
11. Refinance a manufactured home loan to acquire a lot.

Eligibility

Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live on the property. To obtain a V.A. Certificate of Eligibility, complete V.A. Form 26-1880, Request for a Certificate of Eligibility for V.A. Home Loan Benefits, and mail it to one of the two V.A. Eligibility Centers (Winston-Salem and Los Angeles). In general, those veterans living in the western part of the country mail their applications to Los Angeles, while those living in the eastern part of the country mail applications to Winston-Salem. You can find more information on eligibility and addresses for the centers by contacting your local V.A. office or by visiting V.A.'s loan guaranty eligibility page at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/elig.htm>.

HOME LOANS, INSURANCE, AND TAX CREDITS

Specially Adapted Homes

Certain veterans with service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant from V.A. to assist in either building a new specially adapted home or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability-related requirements.

\$50,000 Grant: V.A. may approve a grant of not more than 50 percent of the cost of building, buying, or adapting existing homes or paying to reduce indebtedness on a previously owned home that is being adapted, up to a maximum of \$50,000. In certain instances, the full grant may be applied toward remodeling costs.

General Rules for Eligibility

NOTE: Applications involving other than honorable discharges will usually require further development by V.A.

Wartime - Service during:

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| WWII | 09/16/40 to 07/25/47 |
| Korean | 06/27/50 to 01/31/55 |
| Vietnam | 08/05/64 to 05/07/75 |

You must have at least **90 days** on active duty and been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. If you served less than 90 days, you may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

Peacetime - Service during periods:

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| 07/26/47 to 06/26/50 |
| 02/01/55 to 08/04/64 |
| 05/08/75 to 09/07/80 (for enlisted) |
| to 10/16/81 (for officers) |

You must have served at least **181 days** of continuous active duty and been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

If you served fewer than 181 days, you may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

FOR INFORMATION
ON ELIGIBILITY
FOR LOANS,
CONTACT THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(#12 ON PAGE 36).

If you served on active duty during the Gulf War, you must have:

- (a) completed **24 months** of continuous active duty or the **full period (at least 90 days)** for which you were called or ordered to active duty, and been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; or
- (b) completed at least 90 days of active duty and been discharged under the specific authority of 10 USC 1173 (Hardship), or 10 USC 1173 (Early Out), or have been determined to have a compensable service-connected disability; or
- (c) been discharged with fewer than 90 days of service for a service-connected disability. Individuals may also be eligible if they were released from active duty due to an involuntary reduction in force, certain medical conditions, or, in some instances, for the convenience of the government.

Active Duty Service Personnel

If you are now on regular active duty (not active duty for training), you are eligible after having served **181 days (90 days)** during the Gulf War) unless discharged or separated from a previous qualifying period of active duty service. If you have questions about the V.A. Home Loan Program, contact your county Veterans Affairs office or call **1-877-455-5228**.

Life Insurance

There are currently eight V.A. life insurance programs. Only five of these programs are currently open to new issues. Two of those open to new issues, the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance and Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance programs, are specifically designed for disabled

HOME LOANS, INSURANCE, AND TAX CREDITS

veterans. The other three open programs, Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and Family Service Members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI), are administered by the Office of Service Members' Group Life Insurance (290 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039-2747) under the supervision of V.A.

Assistance With Insurance

For additional information about government life insurance, call the V.A. Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania toll-free at **1-800-669-8477**. Specialists are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries, and reporting the death of the insured. After hours, a caller may leave a recorded message to be answered on the next workday. If the policy number is unknown, send whatever information is available, such as the veteran's V.A. file number, date of birth, Social Security number, military serial number, or military service branch and dates of service to: Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center, Box 42954, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

State of Michigan

Tax Credits

The **Home Heating Credit** is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can be a rented apartment or a mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park. The final date to file for a Home Heating Credit is September 30.

The **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit** is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident at least six months in the prior year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a Michigan homestead. People may not claim a property tax credit if their household income is more than \$82,650. The final date to file for a Homestead Property Tax Credit is April 15. For information on the homestead credit, call **517-334-7076**. For other property tax matters, call **517-373-0500**.

Homestead Exemption: There is a 24-mill statewide property tax levy used for K-12 education funding; homesteads are exempt from 18 mills of this tax levy. Each individual or married couple may claim only one residence in the state as their homestead, thus they may only claim one homestead exemption.

Annual property assessments are capped at 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. These assessments are "un-capped" after the property is sold, then taxed at its fair market value.

CONTACT THE
MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
TREASURY FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THE
HOMESTEAD
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT
(AGENCY LISTING #6
ON PAGE 35).



MONETARY ASSISTANCE

Programs – U.S. Federal

V.A. disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

V.A. Disability Compensation - 2005

| Disability Percentage | Monthly Payment |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10 percent | \$ 108 |
| 20 percent | 210 |
| 30 percent | 324 |
| 40 percent | 466 |
| 50 percent | 663 |
| 60 percent | 839 |
| 70 percent | 1,056 |
| 80 percent | 1,227 |
| 90 percent | 1,380 |
| 100 percent | 2,299 |

Figures are adjusted annually for inflation.

Veterans with disability ratings between 30 percent and 100 percent are eligible for allowances for a spouse and for each minor child. The amount depends on the disability rating.

Receiving Benefit Payments

V.A. offers two methods for receiving benefit payments. Nearly 80 percent of veterans and beneficiaries receive their payments by direct deposit through an electronic funds transfer to their bank, savings, and loan or credit union accounts. Recipients may also choose to receive benefits by check. To choose a payment method, veterans and beneficiaries should call V.A.'s toll-free helpline at **1-877-838-2778**, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Central Standard Time.

Pensions

Veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. The discharge from active duty must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. The permanent and total disability must be for reasons other than the veteran's own willful misconduct. Payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Un-reimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income. Veterans of a period of war who are age 65 or older and meet service and income requirements are also eligible to receive a pension, regardless of current physical condition.

MONETARY ASSISTANCE

Programs – State of Michigan *Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program*

Financial aid is available to Michigan veterans with at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions to meet sudden, temporary, unforeseen needs. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income, unexpected hospitalization not covered by insurance, finding or keeping shelter, and costs involved in attending family funerals. Contact your county Veterans Affairs office. Visit their Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva>.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund – Educational Tuition Grant

Public Act 245 of 1935 is designed to assist any individual between the ages of 16 and 25 who has been a resident of the state for the preceding 12 months, and who is the legal child of a Michigan veteran who was killed, died as a result of service-connected disabilities, or is rated 100 percent disabled because of injuries sustained while in the armed forces of the United States. Such a student, upon admission to a Michigan institution of higher education, may be eligible for a tuition waiver of up to \$2,800 annually for undergraduate study.

Under PA 245 a student must attend school full time and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 or better.

Applications may be requested at **517-483-5469**. Processing time for applications ranges from one week to one month, depending upon the availability of required documents.

Soldiers Relief Commission

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance. Contact your county Veterans Affairs office.

State of Michigan – Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Applicants and recipients may be assigned to **Work First** for assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills. Help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may be provided.

FOR INFORMATION OR
APPLICATIONS FOR
BENEFITS, CONTACT THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(AGENCY LISTING #12
ON PAGE 36),
A VETERANS SERVICE
ORGANIZATION
(LISTINGS ARE ON
PAGES 37 AND 38),
OR A COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE
OFFICE.



MONETARY ASSISTANCE

Michigan Department of Human Services

Contact Information by County

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Alcona | 989-724-6291 | 43 Lake | 231-745-8159 |
| 2 Alger | 906-387-4440 | 44 Lapeer | 810-667-0801 |
| 3 Allegan | 269-673-7700 | 45 Leelanau | 231-256-6100 |
| 4 Alpena | 989-354-7200 | 46 Lenawee | 517-264-6300 |
| 5 Antrim | 231-533-8664 | 47 Livingston | 517-548-0200 |
| 6 Arenac | 989-846-4551 | 48 Luce | 906-293-5144 |
| 7 Baraga | 906-353-4700 | 49 Mackinac | 906-643-9550 |
| 8 Barry | 616-948-3200 | 50 Macomb | 586-412-6100 |
| 9 Bay | 517-895-2100 | 51 Manistee | 231-723-8375 |
| 10 Benzie | 231-882-4443 | 52 Marquette | 906-228-9691 |
| 11 Berrien | 269-934-2000 | 53 Mason | 231-845-7391 |
| 12 Branch | 517-279-4200 | 54 Mecosta | 231-796-4300 |
| 13 Calhoun | 269-966-1284 | 55 Menominee | 906-863-9965 |
| 14 Cass | 269-445-0200 | 56 Midland | 989-839-1100 |
| 15 Charlevoix | 231-547-4471 | 57 Missaukee | 231-779-4500 |
| 16 Cheboygan | 231-627-8500 | 58 Monroe | 734-243-7200 |
| 17 Chippewa | 906-632-3376 | 59 Montcalm | 989-831-8400 |
| 18 Clare | 989-539-4260 | 60 Montmorency | 989-785-4218 |
| 19 Clinton | 989-224-5500 | 61 Muskegon | 231-733-3700 |
| 20 Crawford | 989-348-7691 | 62 Newaygo | 231-689-5500 |
| 21 Delta | 906-786-5394 | 63 Oakland | 248-975-4800 |
| 22 Dickinson | 906-774-1484 | 64 Oceana | 231-873-7251 |
| 23 Eaton | 517-543-0860 | 65 Ogemaw | 989-345-5135 |
| 24 Emmet | 231-348-1600 | 66 Ontonagon | 906-884-4951 |
| 25 Genesee | 810-760-2200 | 67 Osceola | 231-832-4100 |
| 26 Gladwin | 989-426-3300 | 68 Oscoda | 989-826-4000 |
| 27 Gogebic | 906-663-6200 | 69 Otsego | 989-732-1702 |
| 28 Grand Traverse | 231-941-3900 | 70 Ottawa | 616-394-7200 |
| 29 Gratiot | 989-875-5181 | 71 Presque Isle | 989-734-2108 |
| 30 Hillsdale | 517-439-2200 | 72 Roscommon | 989-275-5107 |
| 31 Houghton | 906-482-0500 | 73 Saginaw | 989-758-1500 |
| 32 Huron | 989-269-9201 | 74 Sanilac | 810-648-4420 |
| 33 Ingham | 517-887-9400 | 75 Schoolcraft | 906-341-2114 |
| 34 Ionia | 616-527-5200 | 76 Shiawassee | 989-725-3200 |
| 35 Iosco | 989-362-0300 | 77 St. Clair | 810-966-2000 |
| 36 Iron | 906-265-9958 | 78 St. Joseph | 269-467-1200 |
| 37 Isabella | 989-772-8400 | 79 Tuscola | 989-673-9100 |
| 38 Jackson | 517-780-7400 | 80 Van Buren | 269-621-2800 |
| 39 Kalamazoo | 269-337-4900 | 81 Washtenaw | 734-481-2000 |
| 40 Kalkaska | 231-258-8606 | 82 Wayne | 313-456-1216 |
| 41 Kent | 616-247-6000 | 83 Wexford | 231-779-4500 |
| 42 Keweenaw | 906-337-3302 | | |

MONETARY ASSISTANCE

Other Programs:

Energy Assistance Programs

The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is federal money given to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:



- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, visit the Department of Human Services at **<http://www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance>**.

Michigan National Guard Family Fund

The Michigan National Guard Family Fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience financial difficulties with temporary emergency financial assistance, and to fund programs and training to maintain and improve the quality of life of our Michigan National Guard families. The fund provides for up to a \$500 grant to soldiers and airmen and their family members who encounter financial hardships.

What constitutes a need? Emergency loss of income through activation for military duty; inability to maintain employment due to injury, sudden illness, or job loss; unexpected medical expenses; pay problems; or the accumulation of legitimate bills (e.g., rent, mortgage, electric, oil, gas, etc.). Also included is the inability to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical bills, and transportation due to unforeseen circumstances. An application must be submitted with the necessary documentation. For an application form, go to **<http://www.michguard.com>**.

Additional Resources

The **Army Emergency Relief** (**<http://www.aerhq.org>**) and the **Air Force Aid Society** (**<http://www.afas.org>**) are other available resources. You can obtain additional information at these sites or by contacting the Selfridge Community Services office at **1-586-307-4514**. This office provides financial counseling and assistance for service members who are currently on active duty.

Within local communities you also have your local American Red Cross (**<http://www.redcross.org>**) as well as local VFWs, American Legions, and churches. Each organization has its own set of procedures to follow to obtain assistance, so please contact the resource nearest you for requirements.

HEALTH CARE

Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U. S. Federal

If you have questions about your health care eligibility, call your nearest health care facility or the Health Benefits Service Center at **1-877-222-8387** to obtain the latest information. Additional information on enrollment, including enrollment forms and online applications, also can be found at <http://www.va.gov/elig>.

Financial Assessment

Veterans who want to enroll in a priority group based on their inability to defray the cost of their care must provide V.A. with information on their annual income and net worth to determine whether they are below the annual adjusted “means test” financial threshold. A veteran’s household income and assets, such as the market value of stocks, bonds, notes, individual retirement accounts, bank deposits, savings accounts, and cash, are considered when making this financial assessment.

Services Requiring Co-Payments

Nonservice-connected veterans and non-compensable zero percent service-connected veterans whose income is above the national “means test” threshold must agree to pay appropriate co-payments for care. If the veteran does not agree to make co-payments, the veteran will be ineligible for V.A. care.

A veteran’s application for extended care services (VAF 10-10EC) requires financial information used to determine the monthly co-payment amount, based on each individual veteran’s

financial situation. For outpatient medical care, a three-tiered co-payment system is effective for all outpatient services. The co-payment is \$15 for a primary care visit and \$50 for some specialized care. Certain services do not require a co-payment.

Overseas Benefits

V.A. will pay for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions for veterans living or traveling outside the United States.

Before using the program, veterans living in Canada should register with the

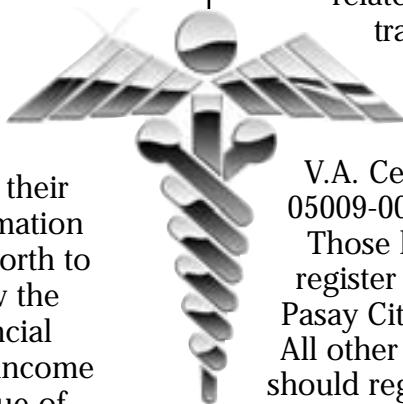
V.A. Center in White River Junction, VT 05009-0001, USA, phone **1-802-296-6379**.

Those living in the Philippines should register with the U.S. V.A. office in Pasay City, phone **011-632-833-4566**.

All other veterans living outside the U.S. should register with the Denver Foreign Medical Program office. P.O. Box 65021, Denver, CO 80206-9021, USA, phone **1-303-331-7590**. Outside the United States, V.A. pays for nursing-home care only in the Philippines.

Nursing-Home Care

Nursing care in V.A. or private nursing homes may be provided for veterans who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care. V.A. will provide nursing-home care to veterans whose service-connected disability requires such care. Also eligible are veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more, or who are permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected condition, or are 60 percent service-connected and receiving unemployability benefits and need this type of care.



HEALTH CARE

Domiciliary Care

Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term health maintenance care for veterans who require minimal medical care but who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in nursing homes. The V.A. may provide domiciliary care to veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of a V.A. pension, or to veterans the V.A. determines have no adequate means of support. The co-payments for extended care services apply to domiciliary care. Call your nearest benefits office or health care facility to obtain the latest information.

Outpatient Pharmacy Services

Outpatient pharmacy services are provided free to: (1) veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more; (2) veterans receiving medication for treatment of service-connected conditions; (3) veterans whose income does not exceed the maximum V.A. annual rate of the V.A. pension; (4) veterans receiving medication for conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange or ionizing radiation; (5) veterans receiving medication for conditions related to Gulf War or post-Gulf War service; (6) veterans receiving medication for conditions related to sexual trauma experienced while in the military; (7) veterans receiving medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck; and (8) veterans receiving medication as part of a V.A.-approved research project.

Other veterans will be charged a co-payment of \$7 for each 30-day or less supply of medication.

Outpatient Dental Treatment

Outpatient dental treatment provided by V.A. includes examinations and the full spectrum of diagnostic, surgical, restorative, and preventive

**ALL OF THESE
BENEFITS ARE SUBJECT
TO CERTAIN
CONDITIONS;
APPLICATIONS AND
INFORMATION ARE
AVAILABLE AT THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(AGENCY LISTING #12
ON PAGE 36).**

procedures. Some veterans receiving dental care may be billed the applicable co-payment if their income exceeds the maximum threshold. The following veterans may receive care: (1) veterans having service-connected and compensable dental disabilities or conditions; (2) former prisoners of war imprisoned 90 days or more; (3) veterans with service-connected, non-compensable dental conditions as a result of combat wounds or service injuries; (4) veterans with nonservice-connected dental conditions determined by V.A. to be aggravating a medical problem; (5) veterans having service-

connected conditions rated as permanently and totally disabling; (6) veterans participating in a vocational rehabilitation program; and (7) certain homeless veterans.

Gulf War, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation Registry Programs

V.A. has developed databases called registries to help analyze the type of health conditions being reported by veterans who served in the Gulf War (August 2, 1990, to a date not yet established), claim exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War (between 1962 and 1975), served in Korea in 1968 or 1969, claim exposure to atomic radiation, or were treated with nasopharyngeal (NP) radium during military service. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest V.A. health care facility for an examination.

Alcohol- and Drug-Dependence Treatment

Veterans eligible for V.A. medical care may apply for substance abuse treatment. Contact the nearest V.A. medical facility to apply. **See contact information on page 39 of this booklet.**

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations program provides funding for eligible veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Home improvement benefits up to \$4,100 for service-connected reasons and up to \$1,200 for nonservice-connected reasons may be provided. For application information, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest V.A. medical center or outpatient clinic.

Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan

Michigan Veterans Homes

A unit of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the **Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**, is located in Grand Rapids. This home provides physician care; skilled nursing care services; social work care; nutritional care; physical, occupational, speech, and rehabilitation therapy programs; and programs for Alzheimer's and special needs care for qualified disabled veterans.

A second veterans home, the **D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**, is located in Marquette. This Upper Peninsula home provides physician coverage for a variety of services as well as additional services on a fee-for-service basis. The home has a domiciliary unit; skilled nursing care; basic nursing care; and a special needs unit for qualified disabled veterans. For further information, veterans may wish to contact directly the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at **1-800-642-4838** or the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans at **1-800-433-6760**.

They may also contact the Veterans Affairs Directorate of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at **www.michigan.gov/dmva/**.

V.A. Center for Women Veterans *Center for Women Veterans*

The mission of the Center for Women Veterans is:

- to ensure women veterans have access to V.A. benefits and services;
- to ensure that V.A. health care and benefits programs are responsive to the gender-specific needs of women veterans;
- to perform outreach to improve women veterans' awareness of V.A. services, benefits, and eligibility; and
- to act as the primary advisor to the Secretary for Veterans Affairs on all matters related to programs, issues, and initiatives for and affecting women veterans.

Some of the services for women veterans are Center for Women Veterans, Outreach for Women Veterans, Health Care for Women Veterans, Sexual Trauma Counseling, and Comprehensive Health Care Centers located at **www1.va.gov/womenvet/**.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Vet Centers

Post-Traumatic Stress

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, an agency sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, concludes: "The estimated lifetime prevalence of PTSD among American Vietnam theater veterans is 30.9 percent for men and 26.9 percent for women. An additional 22.5 percent of men and 21.2 percent of women have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives. Thus, more than half of all male Vietnam veterans and almost half of all female Vietnam veterans—about 1,700,000 Vietnam veterans in all—have experienced clinically serious stress reaction symptoms."

These "clinically serious stress reaction symptoms" include feelings of intense anger,

fear, frequent nightmares and flashbacks, hyper-alertness, sleep deprivation, feelings and actions that result in isolation from family, friends, and society in general, difficulty maintaining primary relationships, self-destructive thoughts and acts including suicide, and excessive use of alcohol and drugs as a way to self-medicate.

One cannot help fearing the percentages of Iraq war veterans suffering from PTSD will eclipse the numbers of those represented by Vietnam veterans. Many Vietnam veterans learned the importance of talking about their experiences and readjustment problems with other veterans who understood what they were feeling. In such safe environments, veterans begin to heal as they are set at ease knowing they are not alone. If you are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran who wants to learn more about post-traumatic stress, call your nearest V.A. Medical facility (see list in this booklet) or contact one of the Vet Centers listed below:

Dearborn Vet Center

2881 Monroe Street
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-277-1428, Ext. 553

Detroit Vet Center

4161 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
313-831-6509

Grand Rapids Vet Center

1940 Eastern Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-243-0385

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Web site is <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov>.



Homeless Veterans

Veterans Housing Program – Volunteers of America

The Veterans Housing Program has greatly expanded housing and other community resources to a significantly underserved population. Veterans may participate in the program for 18 months and are offered the following services: case management, individual and group counseling, referrals for substance abuse and medical treatment, budgeting assistance, job interviewing and placement, and anger management. Upon graduation, aftercare services are offered for six months.

These services are being provided in collaboration with the Ingham County Health Department, Battle Creek V.A. Medical Center, Michigan State University, Advent House Ministries, Ann Arbor V.A. Medical Center, and Michigan Works!.

Eligible participants must be a homeless veteran and have at minimum a general discharge under honorable conditions.

In Lansing, Volunteers of America operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men. For more information about the **Veterans Housing Program**, please contact:

Daleth Jean-Jules, MSSW, CSW
Program Coordinator
430 N. Larch Street
Lansing, MI 48912
517-484-4414, Ext. 119

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

P.O. Box 13037
Lansing, MI 48901-3037
Phone: **517-485-6536**
Fax: **517-485-6682**
E-mail: mciah@mihomeless.org

HOMELESS VETERANS

List of Homeless Shelters in Michigan

Alpha House

4290 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 734-822-0220
Fax: 734-822-0226

**Barbara Kettle Gundlach
Shelter Home for
Abused Women**

P.O. Box 8
Calumet, MI 49913
Phone: 906-337-5623

**Battle Creek Area
Organization
Against Domestic Violence**

P.O. Box 199
Battle Creek, MI 49016
Phone: 616-965-6093

**Bay County
Women's Center**

P.O. Box 1458
Bay City, MI 48706
Phone: 1-800-834-2098

**Branch County Coalition
Against Domestic Violence
Shelterhouse**

P.O. Box 72
Coldwater, MI 49036
Phone: 517-279-7423

Cornerstone Mission

1000 3rd Street
Bay City, MI 48708
Phone: 517-895-5061

Covenant House Michigan

2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48208
Phone: 313-463-2000
Fax: 313-463-2001

**Detroit Health Care
for the Homeless**

2395 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48208
Phone: 313-897-2061
Fax: 313-897-7320

**Downriver Community
Services – Homeless
Health Care Project**

555 St. Clair River Drive
Algonac, MI 48001
Phone: 810-794-4982
Fax: 810-794-7592

**Emergency Shelter
Services, Inc.**

645 Pipestone Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 616-925-1131
Fax: 616-925-0059

Ezra House

106 Mason Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720-1314
Phone: 231-237-1111

**Family Counseling &
Children's Services**

213 Toledo Street
Adrian, MI 49221
Phone: 517-264-5733
Crisis: 517-265-6776
Fax: 517-263-6090

**Gateway Community
Services**

Eaton County Shelter Program
240 S. Cochran
Charlotte, MI 48813
Phone: 517-543-7350

**Haven of Rest
Rescue Mission**

148 East Michigan
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Phone: 616-965-1148

**Inasmuch House
Haven of Rest**

27 Green Street
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Phone: 616-965-1148

New Hope Shelter

814 Lynn Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
Phone: 231-775-3702

Safe Shelter, Inc.

275 Pipestone
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 616-925-2280

Salvation Army

425 Republic Avenue
Alma, MI 48801-2065
Phone: 517-463-2864

809 Henry Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: 734-761-7750

SAPAC

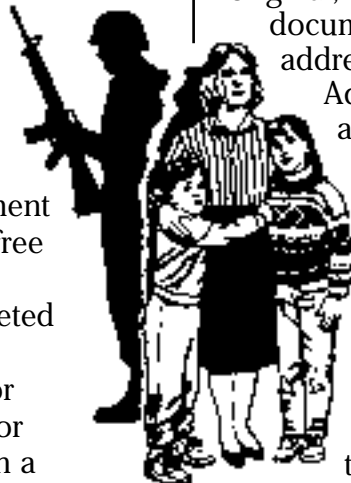
580 Kennedy Drive, Rm. L
107 W. Quad
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Phone: 313-763-5865
Crisis: 313-936-3333
Fax: 313-764-8319

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Death and Burial Benefits for Veterans

Headstones and Markers

Upon request, V.A. furnishes headstones or markers at no charge for graves in cemeteries around the world for service members who die while on active duty and for eligible veterans. V.A. also provides headstones or markers for spouses and dependents buried in military, state, or national veterans cemeteries, but not for those buried in private cemeteries. To apply and to obtain specific information on available styles, contact the cemetery where the headstone or marker is to be placed. When burial occurs in a private cemetery, an application for a government-furnished headstone or marker must be made to V.A. The government will ship the headstone or marker free of charge, but will not pay for its placement. To apply, mail a completed V.A. Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery, along with a copy of the veteran's military service discharge document, to Memorial Programs Service (402E), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420-0001, or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143**. Do not send original discharge documents, as they will not be returned. For more information and instructions, visit <http://www.cem.va.gov>.



**FURTHER INFORMATION
AND/OR APPLICATION
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(AGENCY LISTING #12
ON PAGE 36).**

Presidential Memorial Certificates

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, other relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates in person at any V.A. regional office or by mail: Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (402E), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420-0001.

There is no preprinted form to complete or time limit for requesting these certificates, but requests should include a copy, not the original, of the deceased veteran's discharge document and clearly indicate to what address the certificate should be sent.

Additional information and a sample certificate can be found at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm>.

Burial Flags

V.A. will furnish a United States burial flag for memorialization of:

1. Veterans who served during wartime, or served after January 31, 1955; or
2. Veterans who were entitled to retirement pay for service in the reserves, or would have been entitled to such pay but not for being under 60 years of age; or
3. Members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served at least one enlistment or, in the case of an officer, the period of initial obligation, or were discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

V.A. will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In some instances, V.A. also will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service-disabled veteran to the national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased that has available gravesites. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from V.A. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

V.A. will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation or would have been entitled to compensation but for receipt of military retirement pay. For information on monetary benefits, call **1-800-827-1000**. Additional information about burial and memorial benefits may be obtained at any V.A. national cemetery, regional office, or on the Internet (<http://www.cem.va.gov>). To check on the status of an application for a headstone or marker, call **1-800-697-6947**.

National Cemeteries in Michigan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has two national cemeteries in Michigan:

The Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickham Road

Augusta, MI 49012

Phone: **269-731-4164**

Fax: **269-731-2428**

Great Lakes National Cemetery

Grand Mall and Office Center, Suite 400

12765 S. Saginaw Street

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Phone: **810-695-2007** or

1-866-348-8603



State Veterans' Burial Expenses

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for \$300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children - Federal Benefits ***Death Pension***

Pensions based on need are available for surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service. Spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a V.A.-approved school. Pensions are not payable to those with estates large enough to provide maintenance. The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge for disability. If the veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, benefits may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable service. Children who became incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for a pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child's income exceeds the applicable limit. A surviving spouse may be entitled to higher income limitations or additional benefits if living in a nursing home, in need of aid and attendance by another person, or permanently housebound. For more information, call **1-800-827-1000** or visit <http://www.va.gov>.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments may be available for surviving spouses who have not remarried, unmarried children under 18, helpless children, those between 18 and 23 if attending a V.A.-approved school, and low-income parents of deceased service members or veterans. To be eligible, the deceased must have died from: (1) a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training; (2) an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on inactive duty training; or (3) a disability compensable by V.A. Death cannot be the result of willful misconduct. If a spouse remarries, eligibility for benefits may be restored if the marriage is terminated later by death, annulment, or divorce. DIC payments also may be authorized for survivors of veterans who were totally service-connected disabled when they died, even though their service-connected disabilities did not cause their deaths. The survivor qualifies if: (1) the veteran was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of ten or more years immediately preceding death; (2) the veteran was so rated for a period of at least five years from the date of military discharge; or (3) the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999, and who was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of at least one year immediately preceding death. Payments under this provision are subject to offset by the amount received from judicial proceedings brought on account of the veteran's death. The discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

**FURTHER INFORMATION
AND/OR APPLICATION
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
(AGENCY LISTING #12
ON PAGE 36) OR
VETERANS SERVICE
ORGANIZATIONS
(LISTINGS ARE ON
PAGES 37 AND 38).**

DIC Payments to Surviving Spouse

Surviving spouses of veterans who died after January 1, 1993, may receive monthly payments. A spouse entitled to DIC based on the veteran's death prior to January 1, 1993, may also receive monthly payments or an amount based on the veteran's pay grade.

DIC Payments to Parents and Children

The monthly payment for parents of deceased veterans depends upon their income. There are additional DIC payments for dependent children. A child may be eligible if there is no surviving spouse, and the child is unmarried and under age 18, or if the child is between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

MICHIGAN'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION — 109TH CONGRESS

United States Senate

The Honorable Carl Levin

269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221 • 517-377-1508 (Lansing)

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow

133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822 • 517-203-1760 (East Lansing)

United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Dave Camp

137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3561 • 989-631-2552 (Midland)

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.

2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5126 • 313-961-5670 (Detroit)

The Honorable John D. Dingell

2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4071 • 313-278-2936 (Dearborn)

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers

1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831 • 616-451-8383 (Grand Rapids)

The Honorable Peter Hoekstra

2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4401 • 616-395-0030 (Holland)

The Honorable Dale E. Kildee

2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3611 • 1-800-662-2685 (Toll-Free)

The Honorable Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2261 • 313-965-9004 (Detroit)

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg

2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5802 • 248-851-1366 (Farmington Hills)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Sander M. Levin

2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4961 • 586-498-7122 (Roseville)

The Honorable Thaddeus G. McCotter

1632 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-8171 • 734-632-0314 (Livonia)

The Honorable Candice S. Miller

228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2106 • 586-997-5010 (Shelby Township)

The Honorable Mike Rogers

133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4872 • 1-877-333-MIKE (Toll-Free)

The Honorable John J. H. Schwarz

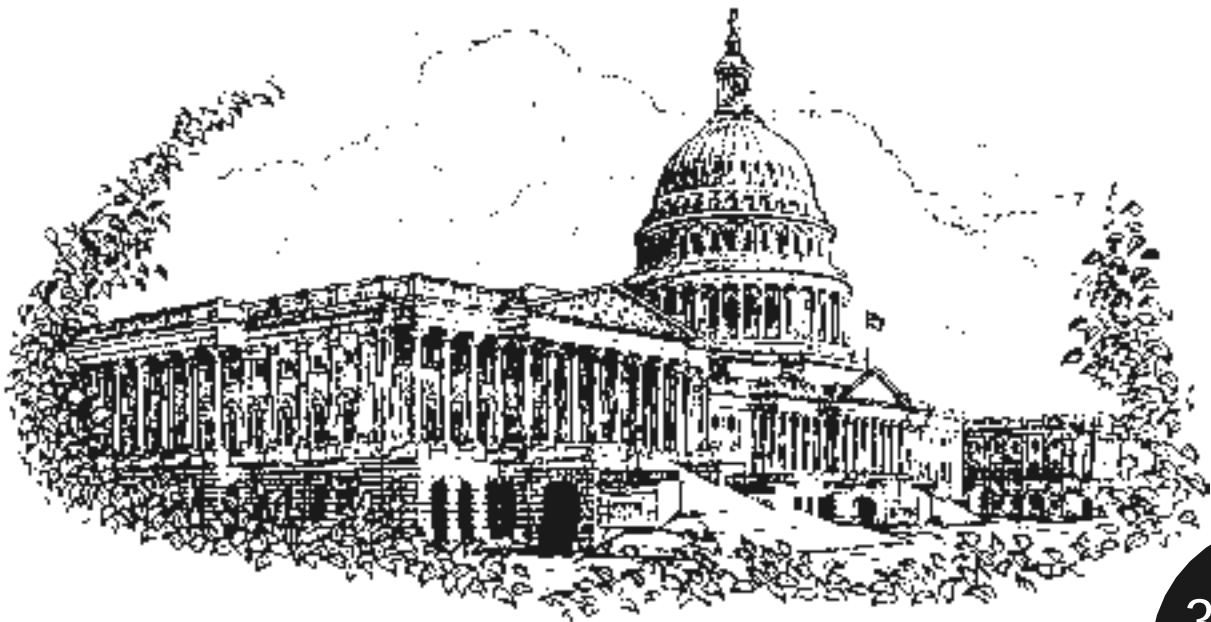
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6276 • 517-323-6600 (Delta Township)

The Honorable Bart Stupak

2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4735 • 1-800-950-7371 (Toll-Free)

The Honorable Fred S. Upton

2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3761 • 269-385-0039 (Kalamazoo)



MICHIGAN'S GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-3400

Fax: 517-335-6863

Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry Jr.

P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-6800

Fax: 517-241-3956

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE 2003-2006

The area code is 517 for all the numbers below.

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|-----------------------|--------------|
|-----------------------|--------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Allen, Jason (R-37) | 373-2413 |
| Barcia, Jim (D-31) | 373-1777 |
| Basham, Raymond E. (D-8) | 373-7800 |
| Bernero, Virg (D-23) | 373-1734 |
| Birkholz, Patricia (R-24) | 373-3447 |
| Bishop, Michael D. (R-12) | 373-2417 |
| Brater, Liz (D-18) | 373-2406 |
| Brown, Cameron S. (R-16) | 373-5932 |
| Cassis, Nancy (R-15) | 373-1758 |
| Cherry, Deborah (D-26) | 373-1636 |
| Clark-Coleman, Irma (D-3) | 373-0990 |
| Clarke, Hansen (D-1) | 373-7346 |
| Cropsey, Alan L. (R-33) | 373-3760 |
| Emerson, Bob (D-27) | 373-0142 |
| Garcia, Valde (R-22) | 373-2420 |
| George, Tom (R-20) | 373-0793 |
| Gilbert, Jud (R-25) | 373-7708 |
| Goschka, Mike (R-32) | 373-1760 |
| Hammerstrom, Beverly S. (R-17) | 373-3543 |

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|-----------------------|--------------|
|-----------------------|--------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Hardiman, Bill (R-29) | 373-1801 |
| Jacobs, Gilda Z. (D-14) | 373-7888 |
| Jelinek, Ron (R-21) | 373-6960 |
| Johnson, Shirley (R-13) | 373-2523 |
| Kuipers, Wayne (R-30) | 373-6920 |
| Leland, Burton (D-5) | 373-0994 |
| McManus, Michelle A. (R-35) | 373-1725 |
| Olshove, Dennis (D-9) | 373-8360 |
| Patterson, Bruce (R-7) | 373-7350 |
| Prusi, Michael (D-38) | 373-7840 |
| Sanborn, Alan (R-11) | 373-7670 |
| Schauer, Mark H. (D-19) | 373-2426 |
| Scott, Martha G. (D-2) | 373-7748 |
| Sikkema, Ken (R-28) | 373-0797 |
| Stamas, Tony (R-36) | 373-7946 |
| Switalski, Michael (D-10) | 373-7315 |
| Thomas, Buzz (D-4) | 373-7918 |
| Toy, Laura M. (R-6) | 373-1707 |
| Van Woerkom, Gerald (R-34) | 373-1635 |

**Letters to any of the Senators
may be addressed:**

The Honorable (name of senator)
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

**Senate Committee on
Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs:**

Laura M. Toy, Chair
Tony Stamas, Vice Chair
Irma Clark-Coleman, Minority Vice Chair
Jud Gilbert, Member
Dennis Olshove, Member

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2005-2006

The area code is 517 for all the numbers below.

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|--|---------------------|
| Accavitti, Frank, Jr. (D-42) | 373-0854 |
| Acciavatti, Daniel Joseph (R-32) | 373-8931 |
| Adamini, Stephen F. (D-109) | 373-0498 |
| Amos, Fran (R-43) | 373-0615 |
| Anderson, Glenn S. (D-18) | 373-2576 |
| Angerer, Kathy (D-55) | 373-1792 |
| Ball, Richard (R-85) | 373-0841 |
| Baxter, Rick (R-64) | 373-1795 |
| Bennett, Doug (D-92) | 373-2646 |
| Bieda, Steve (D-25) | 373-1772 |
| Booher, Darwin (R-102) | 373-1747 |
| Brandenburg, Jack (R-24) | 373-0113 |
| Brown, Rich (D-110) | 373-0850 |
| Byrnes, Pam (D-52) | 373-0828 |
| Byrum, Dianne (D-67) | 373-0587 |
| Casperson, Tom (R-108) | 373-0156 |
| Caswell, Bruce (R-58) | 373-1794 |
| Caul, Bill (R-99) | 373-1789 |
| Cheeks, Marsha (D-6) | 373-0844 |
| Clack, Brenda J. (D-34) | 373-8808 |
| Clemente, Ed (D-14) | 373-0140 |
| Condino, Paul (D-35) | 373-1788 |
| Cushingberry, George, Jr. (D-8) | 373-2276 |
| DeRoche, Craig M. (R-38) | 373-0827 |
| Dillon, Andy (D-17) | 373-0857 |
| Donigan, Marie (D-26) | 373-3818 |
| Drolet, Leon (R-33) | 373-0820 |
| Elsenheimer, Kevin (R-105) | 373-0829 |
| Emmons, Judy (R-70) | 373-0834 |
| Espinoza, John (D-83) | 373-0835 |
| Farhat, David (R-91) | 373-3436 |
| Farrah, Barbara A. (D-13) | 373-0845 |
| Gaffney, Edward J. (R-1) | 373-0154 |
| Garfield, John (R-45) | 373-1773 |
| Gillard, Matthew (D-106) | 373-0833 |
| Gleason, John J. (D-48) | 373-7557 |
| Gonzales, Lee (D-49) | 373-7515 |
| Gosselin, Robert (R-41) | 373-1783 |

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Green, Kevin (R-77) | 373-2277 |
| Hansen, Goeff (R-100) | 373-7317 |
| Hildenbrand, Dave (R-86) | 373-0846 |
| Hood, Morris W., III (D-11) | 373-3815 |
| Hoogendyk, Jack (R-61) | 373-1774 |
| Hopgood, Hoon-Yung (D-22) | 373-0852 |
| Huizenga, Bill (R-90) | 373-0830 |
| Hummel, Scott (R-93) | 373-1778 |
| Hune, Joe (R-47) | 373-8835 |
| Hunter, Tupac A. (D-9) | 373-1705 |
| Jones, Rick (R-71) | 373-0853 |
| Kahn, Roger (R-94) | 373-0837 |
| Kehrl, Herb (D-56) | 373-2617 |
| Kolb, Chris (D-53) | 373-2577 |
| Kooiman, Jerry O. (R-75) | 373-2668 |
| LaJoy, Philip J. (R-21) | 373-2575 |
| Law, David (R-39) | 373-1799 |
| Law, Kathleen (D-23) | 373-0855 |
| Leland, Gabe (D-10) | 373-6990 |
| Lemmons, LaMar, III (D-3) | 373-1776 |
| Lemmons, LaMar, Jr. (D-2) | 373-0106 |
| Lipsey, Alexander C. (D-60) | 373-1785 |
| Marleau, James (R-46) | 373-1798 |
| Mayes, Jeff (D-96) | 373-0158 |
| McConico, Bill (D-5) | 373-0144 |
| McDowell, Gary (D-107) | 373-2629 |
| Meisner, Andy (D-27) | 373-0478 |
| Meyer, Tom (R-84) | 373-0476 |
| Miller, Fred (D-31) | 373-0159 |
| Moolenaar, John (R-98) | 373-1791 |
| Moore, Tim (R-97) | 373-8962 |
| Mortimer, Leslie (R-65) | 373-1775 |
| Murphy, Michael C. (D-68) | 373-0826 |
| Newell, Gary A. (R-87) | 373-0842 |
| Nitz, Neal (R-78) | 373-1796 |
| Nofs, Mike (R-62) | 373-0555 |
| Palmer, Brian (R-36) | 373-0843 |
| Palsrok, David (R-101) | 373-0825 |

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2005-2006

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|--|---------------------|
| Pastor, John R. (R-19) | 373-3920 |
| Pavlov, Phillip (R-81) | 373-1790 |
| Pearce, Tom (R-73) | 373-0218 |
| Phillips, Clarence E. (D-29) | 373-0475 |
| Plakas, Jim A. (D-16) | 373-0849 |
| Polidori, Gino H. (D-15) | 373-0847 |
| Proos, John M. (R-79) | 373-1403 |
| Robertson, David B. (R-51) | 373-1780 |
| Rocca, Tory (R-30) | 373-7768 |
| Sak, Michael G. (D-76) | 373-0822 |
| Schuitmaker, Tonya (R-80) | 373-0839 |
| Shaffer, Rick (R-59) | 373-0832 |
| Sheen, Fulton J. (R-88) | 373-0836 |
| Sheltrown, Joel A. (D-103) | 373-3817 |
| Smith, Alma Wheeler (D-54) | 373-1771 |
| Smith, Virgil (D-7) | 373-0589 |
| Spade, Dudley (D-57) | 373-1706 |

| Name (Party-District) | Office Phone |
|---|---------------------|
| Stahl, John (R-82) | 373-1800 |
| Stakoe, John P. (R-44) | 373-2616 |
| Steil, Glenn D., Jr. (R-72) | 373-0840 |
| Stewart, John C. (R-20) | 373-3816 |
| Taub, Shelley Goodman (R-40) | 373-8670 |
| Tobocman, Steve (D-12) | 373-0823 |
| Vagnozzi, Aldo (D-37) | 373-1793 |
| Van Regenmorter, William (R-74) | 373-8900 |
| Vander Veen, Barbara (R-89) | 373-0838 |
| Walker, Howard C. (R-104) | 373-1766 |
| Ward, Chris (R-66) | 373-1784 |
| Waters, Mary D. (D-4) | 373-1008 |
| Wenke, Lorence (R-63) | 373-1787 |
| Whitmer, Gretchen (D-69) | 373-1786 |
| Williams, Carl M. (D-95) | 373-0152 |
| Wojno, Lisa (D-28) | 373-2275 |
| Zelenko, Paula K. (D-50) | 373-3906 |

Letters to any of the Representatives may be addressed:

The Honorable (name of representative)
 State Representative
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 30014
 Lansing, MI 48909-7514

House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security:

John Garfield, Chair
 Tim Moore, Vice Chair
 John Espinoza, Minority Vice Chair
 Leslie Mortimer, Member
 Phillip Pavlov, Member
 Gino H. Polidori, Member
 Tory Rocca, Member
 Joel A. Sheltrown, Member
 Dudley Spade, Member

AGENCY LISTINGS

1 ***Michigan Department of Civil Rights***
Executive Office
Capitol Tower Building, Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-335-3165**
Fax: **517-241-0546**
TTY: **517-241-1965**
E-mail: **MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov**

Detroit Service Center:
Cadillac Place
3054 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 3-600
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: **313-456-3700**
Fax: **313-456-3701**
WATS: **1-800-482-3604**
TTY: **1-877-878-8464**

2 ***Michigan Department of Civil Service***
Capitol Commons Center Building
400 South Pine Street
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-373-3030**
TDD: **517-335-0191**

3 ***Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth***
Michigan Commission for the Blind
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-373-2062**
E-mail: **heibecks@michigan.gov**

4 ***Michigan Department of Community Health***
Lewis Cass Building, Sixth Floor
320 South Walnut Street
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-373-3740**
TDD: **517-373-3573**

5 ***Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth***
Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns,
which includes the
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-335-6004** T/V
Toll-Free: **1-877-499-6232** T/V
Fax: **517-335-7773**
Commission on Disability Concerns
E-mail: mcdc@michigan.gov
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
E-mail: dodhh@michigan.gov

6 ***Michigan Department of Treasury***
Treasury Building
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48922
Phone: **517-373-3200**
TTY: **517-636-4999**

AGENCY LISTINGS

7 ***Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Bureau of Workforce Programs***
Project MOVE (Michigan Opportunities
for Veterans Employment)
Michigan Veterans Hot Line
Call Toll-Free: **1-800-455-5228**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services
201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 30010
Lansing, MI 48909
Call Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**
TTY Toll-Free: **1-888-605-6722**
E-mail: **MRS-CustomerAssistance@
michigan.gov**

8 ***Michigan Department of Human Services***
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-373-2035**
Fax: **517-335-6101**
E-mail: **dhsweb@michigan.gov**

9 ***Michigan Veterans Trust Fund***
7109 West Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-373-3130**

10 ***Soldiers Relief Commission***
Consult your local phonebook for
county government. Usually this is
handled by the office of
Veteran Affairs.

11 ***U.S. Department of Labor—
Veterans Employment and
Training (USDOL/VET)***
3032 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 9-550
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: **313-456-3182**

12 ***U.S. Department of Veterans
Affairs (USDVA)***
McNamara Building, 12th Floor
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226
Call Toll-Free: **1-800-827-1000**

13 ***Michigan Department of
Military and Veterans Affairs***
Veterans Affairs Directorate
7109 West Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-335-6523**



VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

NOTE: Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits. See list below for contact information.

American Legion

1210 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584

John Nelson

E-mail: lenelsj@vba.va.gov

Phone: **313-964-6640**

American Legion Service Officers

Mid-Michigan

Patrick Kline

Phone: **989-280-3009**

Southeast Michigan

Jim Topps

Phone: **269-330-6543**

Southwest Michigan

Jim Simmons

Phone: **269-330-6539**

Northern Michigan

Ray Moore

Phone: **231-878-1689**

Upper Peninsula

Rick Stewart

Phone: **906-630-2646**

AMVETS

1227 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584

David Kozma

Phone: **313-964-6920**

Blind Veterans Association

477 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2694

Phone: **202-371-8880**

Fax: **202-371-8258**

E-mail: bva@bva.org

Web site: <http://www.bva.org>

Catholic War Veterans

1225 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584

Leondas Galinskas

Phone: **313-226-4182**

Disabled American Veterans

1200 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584

Don Crull

E-mail: dvcruld@vba.va.gov

Phone: **313-964-6595**

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish War Veterans

1225 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Jack Weiss
Phone: **313-226-4327**

Marine Corps League

1232 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
James Tuohy
E-mail: **mctuohj@vba.va.gov**
Phone: **313-964-6830**

Military Order of the Purple Heart

1226 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Cynthia Cranford
E-mail: **purheart@vba.va.gov**
Phone: **313-964-6888**

Paralyzed Veterans of America

1233 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-961-9583**

Polish Legion of American Veterans

11619 Conant Avenue
Hamtramck, MI 48212
Joe Liwak
E-mail: **plavdeptmi@juno.com**
Phone: **313-891-7528**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

1215 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Dan Crocker
E-mail: **vfcrocd@vba.va.gov**
Phone: **313-964-6510**

Vietnam Veterans of America

1231 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phil Smith
E-mail: **vvasmithp@vba.va.gov**
Phone: **313-961-9568**

MICHIGAN V.A. MEDICAL FACILITIES AND OUT-PATIENT CLINICS

Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

Ann Arbor

2215 Fuller Road 48105

734-769-7100

Battle Creek

5500 Armstrong Road 49015

269-966-5600

Benton Harbor

115 Main Street 49022

269-934-9123

Detroit

4646 John R Street 48201

313-576-1000

Flint

G-3267 Beecher Road 48532

810-720-2913

Gaylord

806 South Otsego 49735

989-732-6555

Grand Rapids

3019 Coit Avenue, N.E. 49505

616-365-9575

Hancock

890 Campus Drive 49930

906-482-7762

Iron Mountain

325 East H Street 49801

906-774-3300

1-800-215-8262

Ironwood

930 Cloverland Drive 49938

906-932-0032

Lansing

2727 S. Pennsylvania 48910

517-374-4295

Marquette

425 Fisher Street 49855

906-226-4618

Menominee

1101 11th Avenue, Suite 2 49858

906-863-1286

Muskegon

165 E. Apple Avenue

Suite 201 49442

231-725-4105

Oscoda

5671 Skeel Avenue

Suite 4 48750

989-747-0026

Pontiac

950 University Drive 48342

248-409-0585

Saginaw

1500 Weiss Street 48602

989-497-2500

Sault Ste. Marie

16523 S. Water Tower #1 49783

906-495-3030

Traverse City

3271 Racquet Club Drive 49684

231-932-9720

Yale

7470 Brockway Road 48097

810-387-3211

The State of Michigan operates two veterans homes at the following locations:

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

3000 Monroe Avenue, N.W.

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

616-364-5300 • 1-800-642-4838

D. J. Jacobetti Michigan Home for Veterans

425 Fisher

Marquette, MI 49855

906-226-3576 • 1-800-433-6760

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Affairs Directorate of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains a Web site to inform interested citizens of the available resources, benefits, and programs made available by the State of Michigan. The Web address is:

www.michigan.gov/dmva/

Specific questions can be addressed to:
hessh@michigan.gov.

Other Federal and State Departments

To access the Web pages of other Michigan departments and agencies, go to:
www.michigan.gov

Where to Find More Veterans Information

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2005

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, you may purchase a copy of **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2005** (Stock: Number 051-000-00228-8).

Make check (\$7.00) payable to
Superintendent of Documents

Send check payments to:
Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

The booklet is also available online at

**[www1.vagov/opa/vadocs/
current-benefits.htm](http://www1.vagov/opa/vadocs/current-benefits.htm)**

Questions or comments? Contact the
GPO Contact Center from 7:00 a.m. to
9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday
at **1-866-512-1800** (toll-free) or
(202) 512-1800 (DC Metro area), or
E-mail **ContactCenter@gpo.gov**.

By Phone:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| V.A. Benefits | 1-800-827-1000 |
| Health Benefits | 1-877-222-8387 |
| Education Benefits | 1-888-442-4551 |
| Employment | 1-800-455-5228 |
| Life Insurance | 1-800-669-8477 |
| Debt Management | 1-800-827-0648 |
| Mammography Hotline | 1-888-492-7844 |
| Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) | 1-800-829-4833 |
| CHAMPVA | 1-800-733-8387 |
| Headstones and Markers | 1-800-697-6947 |
| Gulf War Helpline | 1-800-749-8387 |
| Health Eligibility Center | 404-235-1257 |
| 1644 Tullie Circle, or Atlanta, GA 30329-2303 | 1-800-949-8387 |

By Computer:

The V.A. Federal Benefits booklet and other
V.A. information is available at:
<http://www.va.gov>.

World Wide Web Links

V.A. Home Page
 <http://www.va.gov> || V.A. Consumer Affairs | <http://www.va.gov/customer/conaff.asp> |

V.A. Benefits and Health Care Information:

| | |
|---|---|
| V.A. Compensation and Pension Benefits | http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21 |
| V.A. Benefits Online Application | http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp |
| Health Benefits and Services | http://www.va.gov/vbs/health |
| Burial and Memorial Benefits | http://www.cem.va.gov |
| Education Benefits .. | http://www.gibill.va.gov |
| Employment Assistance | http://michigan.gov/veteranjobs |
| V.A. Home Loan Guarantees | http://www.homeloans.va.gov |
| Board of Veterans' Appeals | http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva |
| Benefits and Services Outside of the U.S | http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign |
| TRICARE | http://www.tricare.osd.mil |
| CHAMPVA | http://www.va.gov/hac |